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A2 In this embodiment UNDX (Ono, I. And Kobayashi, S: A Real-coded Genetic Algorithm for Function Optimization Using Unimodal Normal Distribution Crossover, Proceeding of 7th International Conference on Genetic Algorithms, pp. 246-253 (1997)) is adopted as a crossover operator. The UNDX generates, from two parents of parent 1 and Parent 2 out of selected parents, two children according to a normal distribution set around them, as shown in Fig. 27. The standard deviation of the normal distribution is set so that a component σ_1 along the major-axis direction connecting the both parents is proportional to a distance between the parents ($\sigma_1 = \alpha d_1$ where d_1 : the distance between Parent 1 and parent 2) and so that a component σ_2 along the other axis is proportional to a distance between the major axis and Parent 2 ($\sigma_2 = \beta d_2$, where d_2 : the distance between parent 3 and the axis connecting parent 1 with Parent 2). Fig. 27 illustrates an example of two variables.

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Fig. 38 shows a state in which the best solution P (the lens system shown in Fig. 31) obtained in Experiment 1 of the first embodiment described above is plotted on the enlarged view of Fig 37. In the drawing letter Q indicates lens systems dominating the solution found by the single-objective optimization of the evaluation criteria. As also apparent from this Fig. 38, it is clearly seen that the second embodiment (multi-objective optimization) obtains many more excellent solutions that that obtained by the single-objective GA. This conceivably suggests that there is a possibility of making the problem harder if the multi-objective problem is forced to the single-objective problem.

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A4 Fig. 39 is a schematic diagram of the structure of the photographic lens system. In this figure g designates the image plane. The photographic lens system of this figure is an example of the three-lens configuration, in which there are six boundary surfaces of a to f having their respective curvatures, and six distances of d_1 to d_6 between the boundary surfaces (d_1 between A and B, d_2 between B and C, d_3

AM between C and D, d4 between D and E, d5 between E and F, and d6 between F and G).

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Fig. 41 illustrates a gene representation of ten parameters of continuous values featuring the lens system in the three-lens configuration shown in Fig. 39. In each of a-e and d1-d5 in the same drawing a parameter of the corresponding lens system is stored in the form of continuous value. Among such genes, n ($n > 1$) genes satisfying the minimum constraints are reproduced arbitrarily.

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The n -dimensional coordinates of the point P4 reproduced by above steps ST4-1 to ST4-6 correspond to the n parameters $a, b, c, d, e, d1, d2, d3, d4, d5$ of a chromosome of a new-born gene or a child. In this step ST4 of the fourth embodiment the substeps ST4-1 to ST4-6 described above are repeated m times, whereby m new genes are reproduced from the three parents Pa1, Pa2, Pa3.

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In the case of the multi-objective optimization, steps ST110 and ST150-ST170 below are executed in place of above steps ST1 and ST5-ST7.

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Size of initial population: 50

Number of Crossovers: 300,000

Number of children generated by crossover operator: 20

σ_a of UNDX: $0.5 \times VC1VC2$

σ_b of UNDX: 1

σ_c of UNDX: $0.35 \times (VC1VC2)^{1/n}$